

# 'Change a port, you can change the world'

## Verdict of Brazilian port official

THE PORT OF RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, was three years ago in the red and supported by a £250,000 per month government subsidy.

Today it is in the black.

Otton Barbosa, Traffic Director of the Port—this week visiting London—gave the facts behind this remarkable change to men vitally concerned in the shipping and docking industries.

Speaking at a dinner in the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, Barbosa said that the Brazilian Minister

of Transport in 1964 turned to ordinary dockworkers trained in MRA and asked them to undertake the recuperation of the port. At that time the government were considering whether to close the port—a nationalised concern—because of its high deficit. The jobs of 20,000 men were at stake.

Barbosa, a founder of the Socialist Party in Rio de Janeiro and an active member of the Brazilian Portworkers' Union, accepted appointment as inspector of the No. 1 berth of the port and later became Traffic Director.

He said Moral Re-Armament had shown him that the in-fighting between rival trade union groups among the dockers was 'magnified self-interest.' He had changed his approach to both his colleagues and enemies. He saw that he had 'made a climate of bitterness in my own home and a climate of bitterness and division in the port which would result in the destruction of the economy of the port and eventually in the destruction of the economy of the nation.'

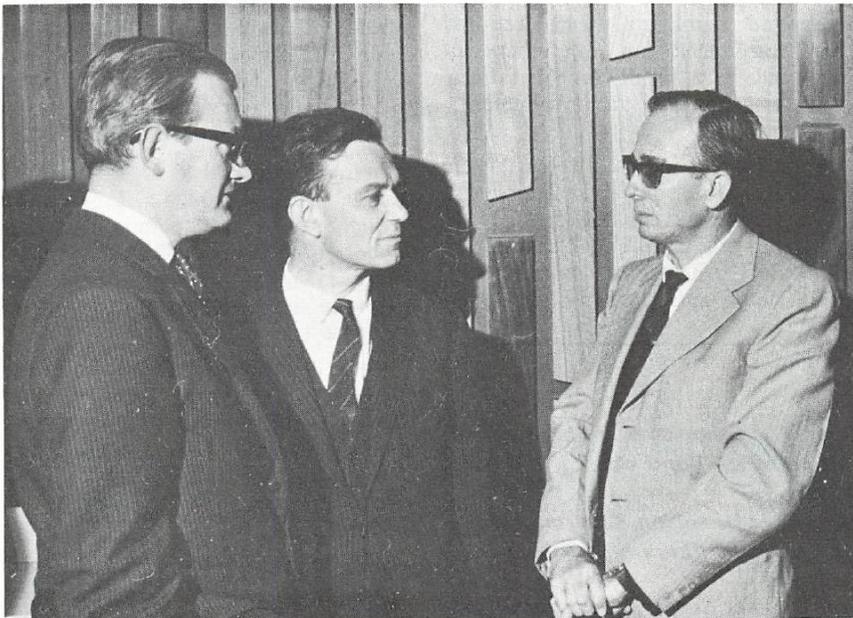
On the port's recuperation he said, 'In eight months during 1965 we doubled the income of the port. It increased from 1.3 billion cruzeiros a month to 3.7 billion. And in 1966 we put up the income a further 35%.' During this period there was no increase in the port dues; in fact the super tariff (an extra charge) was abolished. (The inflation of the Brazilian cruzeiro in the eight months period in 1965 was 30%.

Barbosa and his colleagues strongly attacked corruption and bribery in the port and won the support of 90% of the dockers in this campaign. 'Port taxes used to be negotiated. We put an end to that. The shipping companies used to grease certain people's palms and then port taxes would be lowered and money was lost.'

Another loss of port income was the decline to practically zero of Brazilian coastwise traffic. Firms did not transport their goods by ship along the coast, although the bulk of Brazil's population lives in the coastal region, because of the inefficiency and stealing in the ports. Since the recuperation of the Port of Rio de Janeiro coastal traffic is back to about 40%-50% of what it should be.

'But much more important than the statistics that you can quote is the recovery in the morale of the port and that has brought in its wake better checking, better productivity and more income flowing into the port coffers.'

Barbosa and his colleagues believe what has happened in the Port of Rio is applicable to other ports and industries. He said, 'If you can change a port you can change the world.' One of his colleagues is in Australia meeting the dockers' leaders and will visit Asian ports on his return journey. Another colleague is in Scandinavia and was recently in Holland and Belgium. 'I am convinced that we are going to unite all the ports of the world. The portworkers can unite the world, just as the ports can solve the economic problems of nations.'



Otton Barbosa (right), Traffic Director of the Port of Rio de Janeiro, talks with Brian Rogers (left), British shipping executive, and Laurie Vogel

Photo: Blair

# Call for 'changed attitude' in Clyde shipyards

'The Greenock Pictorial' on 11 January published the following article on the occasion of the visit of 'It's our country, Jack!'

A PORT GLASGOW MAN, Mr John Mackenzie, of 54, Brightside Avenue, is convinced that he, and many others like him, have found the solution which Britain needs to once more gear the wheels of her industry towards a prosperous future.

Mr Mackenzie is branch secretary of Lithgow's Boilermakers' Society, and he is playing a leading part in the complete change of attitude which is sweeping through all levels of this famous Port shipyard.

What this man believes in is the need for moral re-armament—not just in Port Glasgow, not just in shipbuilding—but throughout British industry, and for this reason he has become an active member of the 'MRA' the Moral Re-Armament Organisation.

## Selfish attitudes

'To get the industry and the country right,' he says, 'we need to get rid of selfish attitudes that block teamwork and production.'

Mr Mackenzie, in his capacity as a union secretary, and a member of MRA, has addressed large assemblies in this country and on the Continent, including France and Switzerland. Wherever he has been, he has found wild enthusiasm for the aims of the organisation.

**A Ross Belch, Managing Director of Lithgow's and Mrs Belch met with John Mackenzie, after attending a performance of 'It's our country, Jack!'**



Mackenzie was among those inviting the musical to the Clyde. Hundreds of shipyard workers and their wives and families from Lithgow's saw the show in the Port Glasgow Town Hall last week.

Later it visited Aberdeen where 'The Press and Journal' reported: 'The young cast delighted the audience with a series of fast-moving songs and humorous sketches. The aim of the show is to provide top entertainment and to present an idea of what Britain could do in the world today if she really tried.'

Photo: Strong

MRA is, of course, a non-political body, but it is growing rapidly into a striking force, both at home and abroad. John Mackenzie is quick to admit that it has in fact, 'changed his whole way of thinking.'

Like many shipyards, Lithgow's have been subject to demarcation disputes and damaging strike actions. They introduced job inter-changeability and, as a result, time has been saved on the jobs and productivity has increased.

'Four years ago,' said John, 'when a dispute arose, my first course of action was to get out the door. Now this is not the case, and I realise the all round benefits of straightaway sitting down and talking it out.'

'Interchangeability is union policy on paper, but it takes people with the right spirit and changed attitudes to make it work. Of course, there are those who try to obstruct it for personal reasons and try to do their fellow workers out of a job.'

'For me, MRA has changed this attitude. I used to remain silent at union meetings, but now I speak out against what is wrong for the country as a whole, and I will continue to fight for what I think is right for it.'

Right in the thick of a 'wind of change' then, which is blowing strongly along the 'bonnie banks o' Clyde', is a Port Glasgow worker. There is nothing fancy about this man—he is a plain, warm-hearted, generous sort of person.

He is determined, however, that the Clyde, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Britain should continue to thrive as a united nation. MRA has given him a renewed sense of responsibility, new vigour to face the tribulations of modern living.

John Mackenzie is convinced that if he can share this new enlightenment with the entire nation then this crisis which darkens out our country at present could become our answer to the world.



**The dilemma of a shop steward in search of a revolution who found one on his own building site.**

**The story of Les Dennison, Chairman of the Building Trades Workers of Coventry.**

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## KENYA

'HARAMBEE AFRICA' has been presented to three units of the Kenya Army at the Gilgil Base, 80 miles from Nairobi. Captain Kuruto, the adjutant of the base, introducing the performance, said, 'We know of your reputation and the importance of what you are doing and what you have to say. We have read about you in the Press and seen you on television. That is why we were eager for you to come here.'

The musical has also been featured three times recently on Voice of Kenya Television.

## PHILIPPINES

PRESIDENT MARCOS of the Philippines received the cast of the Japanese musical *Let's Go '67* in the Malacanang Palace, Manila. Applause from the Cabinet Ministers, generals and other leaders present greeted the cast when they sang in Tagalog, the main Filipino language. The President said, 'You give me great hope. Please march on and reach the hearts of millions.'

Students of the Far Eastern University packed their 2,000 seat auditorium for a performance. Two thousand students of Santo Tomas Catholic University also filled their auditorium. The Rector, Raymond Diaz, Vice-President of the World Federation of Catholic Universities, said, 'These young people will succeed where we of the older generation have failed to make this a happy continent'.

## CEYLON

THE PRESIDENT of the Ceylon Senate, Senator Ratnayake, gave a reception last week for Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the visiting West Indies Cricket XI.

The reception, which took place in the Senate, was attended by the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Transport, Members of Parliament and businessmen. Hunte spoke on Moral Re-Armament.



Concert pianist John Bigg (left) and Dr William Reed, Arts Centre Musical Director  
Photo: Blair

## Arts Centre music programme begins

JOHN BIGG gave the first of two inaugural recitals at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre last Sunday. His second recital is on 19 February.

Dr William L Reed, Director of Music at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, announces further Sunday events in the Music Programme:

On 9 April Miss Imogen Holst, daughter of Gustav Holst, composer of 'The Planets', will talk about her father's career and music. She is bringing her own singers, the Purcell Consort of Voices, who will illustrate her talk. They will present three songs of Holst which have never been sung before. Miss Viola Tunnard will play two works of Holst, who was a pioneer of English folk song, musical education and composition.

On 7 May Miss Ruth Largesen, Norwegian pianist and specialist in Grieg music will give a programme of the great Norwegian composer's works.

On 4 June Eric Fenby, author of 'Delius as I knew him', will give a programme of the music of Frederick Delius.

On 2 July Robert Layton, author of a recent book on Sibelius, will present a concert of the Finnish master's music.

All performances will start at 3 pm.

## Modern training course

PEOPLE of 19 nations have taken part in the opening sessions of an MRA training course in 'Leadership for the Modern World' at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre.

The course aims to develop character and leadership, to give an informed perspective on world affairs and to challenge young men and women to take responsibility for its future. It is specially designed for the youth of Britain and young men and women who are in Britain for study and work from the Commonwealth, the continent and overseas.

The course director is C Russell Carpenter, MA, Dip Ed.